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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Volkspolizei Bereitschaften

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 26 March 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

VP Bereitschaft in Brandenburg-Gornden.

1. Between early January and 1 February 1951, the VP Bereitschaft in Brandenburg-Gornden (N 53/Z 23) was quartered in the installation of the former VP Bereitschaft. It numbered 1,500 police, the authorized strength being 2,000 police. The unit included a supply section of 50 police equipped with 20 trucks but eventually to have 40 trucks. The supply section was engaged in supply runs to the VP central supply depot in Berlin. Large tank garages were under construction in the billoting area of the VP Bereitschaft.
2. VP Inspekteur Wagner, (fnu), was the commanding officer. Together with Paul Markgraf, (fnu), he returned to Germany from the academy in Moscow in the fall of 1950 and was subsequently appointed chief of a department of the SSD for Land Brandenburg in Potsdam. Prior to his going to Moscow, Wagner was vice president of the East-Berlin police. VP Oberrat Tielsch, (fnu), was PK officer of the VP Bereitschaft. (1)

VP Bereitschaft in Eggesin.

3. On 10 February, the VP Bereitschaft in Eggesin (N 54/Q 20) numbered about 1,800 police, its authorized strength being 2,000 police. The VP Bereitschaft was newly activated upon dissolution of the VP school there. It was organized into four infantry Kommandos of 300 police each and seven Sonderabteilungen of 100 police each. The unit was equipped with two T-34 tanks, sixteen 105 and 125-mm guns, Soviet heavy and medium mortars, models 08 and 34 machine guns, models 38 and 44 sub-machine guns, American 9-mm submachine guns, models 98 and 43 rapid-fire carbines with 10-round magazines.
4. The key officers of the unit were VP Kommandeur Kuhnert, (fnu), commanding officer; VP Oberrat Becker, (fnu), PK officer; VP Rat Schubert, (fnu), commanding officer of 1st Kommando (Inf), who had formerly been assigned to the VP unit in Berlin-Treptow; VP Oberkommissar Pankow, (fnu), commanding officer of 2d Kommando (Inf); and VP Oberkommissar Rieck, (fnu), PK officer of 2d Kommando (Inf). (2)

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Document No. 11

No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S (C)

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Auth. HB 70-2

457R007400620011-4

By: ☐

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2

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VP Bereitschaft in Erfurt.

5. On 11 February, the VP Bereitschaft in Erfurt (M 51/J 36) numbered 1,600 police and was located on Auf der Henne. It was organized into four infantry Kommandos, three of which were at authorized strength, and seven Sonderabteilungen. The police were trained with heavy Maxim machine guns and models 38 and 44 submachine guns. VP Inspekteur Smolorz, (fnu), allegedly a Soviet citizen, was the commanding officer, and VP Rat Ankler, (fnu), PK officer. A VP school was being established in the quarters of the former VP Bereitschaft on Petersburg. (3)

VP Bereitschaft No 209/13 in Kochstedt.

6. On 15 January, the VP Bereitschaft [] in Kochstedt (M 52/E 06) numbered 1,100 to 1,200 police and was organized into the headquarters and four Kommandos of 260 to 280 men each. The activation of several Sonderabteilungen was projected. The unit was equipped with light and medium mortars, heavy Maxim machine guns, model 34 machine guns, models 38 and 40 submachine guns, carbines and Mauser pistols. 25X1
7. Officers of the VP Bereitschaft included VP Kommandeur Erich Fischer, commanding officer; VP Kommandeur Edwin Burghardt, PK officer; VP Rat Zander, (fnu), commanding officer of 2d Kommando; VP Rat Wachter, (fnu), commanding officer of 3d Kommando; VP Rat Sachse, (fnu), VP Oberkommissar Schoder, (fnu), and VP Oberkommissar Holzschuhmacher, (fnu), liaison officers to the Soviet Army; and four unidentified Soviet officers wearing VP uniforms. (4)

VP Bereitschaft in Weissenfels.

8. On 10 February, the VP Bereitschaft in Weissenfels (M 52/J 99) numbered 2,400 police and was quartered at 112 Zeitzerstrasse. It was organized into three infantry Kommandos of 350 police each, one tank Kommando of 350 police, and seven Sonderabteilungen of 120 police each, the last ones being engineer, AT artillery, AT rifle, signal-communications (radio and telephone), motorcycle, heavy mortar and heavy machine gun units. The equipment of the unit consisted of medium and heavy mortars, AT rifles, models 38 and 44 submachine guns, new Soviet short-barrel submachine guns with 32 and 76-round magazines, model 98-K carbines and rapid-fire rifles. The tank Kommando of the VP Bereitschaft was quartered in the so-called riding hall outside the town.
9. The officers of the unit included VP Kommandeur Kiesewetter, (fnu), commanding officer; VP Oberrat Kell, (fnu), PK officer; three unidentified Soviet liaison officers, two of whom had the rank of VP Inspekteur; VP Rat Dorfel, (fnu), commanding officer of 1st Kommando (Inf); VP Oberrat Roes, (fnu), commanding officer of 2d Kommando (Inf); and VP Oberkommissar Schweigel, (fnu), commanding officer of 3d Kommando (Inf). (5)

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Comments.

- (1) A VP Bereitschaft with VP Inspekteur Wagner, (fnu), as commanding officer and VP Oberrat Tielsch, (fnu), as PK officer has to date been carried in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken. 25X1

[] Since no police have been observed in Brandenburg-Gochrden since [] it is doubted that the VP Bereitschaft mentioned in the present report is actually stationed there.

- (2) The VP school in Eggesin was transformed into a new-type VP Bereitschaft whose organization corresponds to that of other new VP Bereitschaften. The cover number of the unit has not been determined.

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3

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- (3) The VP Bereitschaft in the Honne Kaserne, Erfurt, has also been reorganized according to the new pattern. [REDACTED] 25X1
The establishment of a VP school in the barracks installation on Petersberg was previously reported. [REDACTED] 25X1
- (4) VP Bereitschaft [REDACTED] was previously identified. [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] Its strength is still below that of other reorganized VP Bereitschaften. ILLEGIB 25X1
- (5) According to its strength and organization, the VP Bereitschaft in Meissenfels is one of the new-type units. [REDACTED]
been determined.

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